

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 20464 01 OF 02 031717Z

41
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 113004

O 031707Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3839

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20464

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF WASHDC FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC, GW, AWACS

SUBJECT: AWACS

REFS: (A) BONN 20175; (B) STATE 292828; (C) SECDEF
TO USDAO NO. 9043, DTG 030041Z; (C) BONN 2039L

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS A AND B, I CALLED THIS
AFTERNOON ON STATE SECRETARY FINGERHUT TO FOLLOW UP
AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE'S AND MY CALL ON STATE SECRE-
TARY GEHLHOFF THIS MORNING (REF D).

2. FINGERHUT, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS
OF MINISTER LEBER'S IMMEDIATE STAFF, SAID THAT HE HAD
INVITED LEBER'S STAFF TO SIT IN SO THAT THEY, AS WELL
AS HE, COULD INFORM LEBER OF OUR POSITION IN ORDER THAT
LEBER COULD REACH A PROMPT AND CORRECT DECISION DURING
A SHORT VISIT HE WOULD MAKE TO BONN TOMORROW.

3. I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE HAD COME FROM BRUSSELS
TO CALL ON GEHLHOFF THIS MORNING. THIS UNDERLINED
IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO AWACS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 20464 01 OF 02 031717Z

--WE BELIEVED THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AS THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY, SHOULD BE INFORMED OF OUR CALL ON GEHLHOFF AND SHOULD HAVE THE SAME INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR VIEWS AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

-- OUR EXPERTS HAVE TOLD US THAT AWACS WAS A GOOD SYSTEM AND A NECESSARY ONE.

--WE BELIEVED WE UNDERSTOOD FRG PROBLEMS, INCLUDING (1) THE NEED FOR BUNDESTAG APPROVAL OF FINANCE, (2) THE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING INTERFACE WITH GROUND ENVIRONMENT, AND (3) THE FRG INTEREST IN HAVING FULL NATO PARTICIPATION.

--I REVIEWED OUR POSITION ON THESE ISSUES, POINTING OUT--IN ACCORD WITH SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S LETTER--THE GROWING NATO INTEREST AND ALSO CITING THE INFLUENCE OF THE GERMAN POSITION ON THE DECISIONS OF OTHERS.

--THE IMPORTANT POINT, AS AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE HAD SAID, IS FOR A POSITIVE DPC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROJECT, LEAVING FOR LATER THE ISSUES THAT STILL NEED TO BE RESOLVED.

4. I GAVE FINGERHUT THE SAME PROPOSED TEXT THAT STRAUZ-HUPE HAD GIVEN TO GEHLHOFF THIS MORNING AND EXPLAINED OUR THINKING ON IT.

5. FINGERHUT SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE TIMELINESS OF THIS PRESENTATION BECAUSE IT WOULD ENABLE HIM AND THE MINISTER TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE FULLY TOMORROW AND TO MAKE DECISIONS IN TIME FOR THE DPC. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT LEBER REGARDED AWACS AS AN IMPORTANT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 20464 02 OF 02 031718Z

41
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 113023

O 031707Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3840
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20464

EXDIS

PROGRAM AND WOULD TAKE HIS DECISION IN THAT LIGHT.

6. FINGERHUT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR UNDER-
STANDING OF THE SPECIAL GERMAN PROBLEM REGARDING THE
BUNDESTAG IN THE LIGHT OF THE DELAYS BEING OCCASIONED
BY THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

7. FINGERHUT PARTICULARLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
THE PROPOSED STATEMENT, SAYING HE BELIEVED LEBER COULD
NOT GO FURTHER THAN SUCH A STATEMENT AND WOULD CONSIDER
IT VERY CAREFULLY.

8. FINGERHUT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR LISTING
OF OTHER INTERESTED STATES, OBSERVING THAT HE KNEW
LEBER REGARDED THIS AS A VITAL ASPECT OF THIS ISSUE.

9. I THEN PASSED TO FINGERHUT SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S
LETTER TO LEBER, POINTING OUT THAT IT DEALT WITH AWACS
AND THE TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM AND THAT IT ALSO
COVERED CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS ON THE AIM-9L
MISSILE. FINGERHUT REACTED VERY POSITIVELY TO THE
LATTER POINT, SAYING THE SECRETARY'S LETTER CONSTITUTED
A GOOD START THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH LEBER.

10. FINGERHUT SAID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD GONE TO
THE ABSOLUTE LIMITS OF ITS FINANCIAL CAPACITY IN MAKING
ITS MILITARY CONTRIBUTION THIS YEAR AND THAT THIS,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 20464 02 OF 02 031718Z

OF COURSE, ALSO AFFECTED ITS VIEW OF AWACS. BUT HE
ADDED THAT HE WAS A PRAGMATIST AND THAT PERHAPS SOME-
THING ELSE COULD BE DROPPED TO ACCOMMODATE AWACS.
I POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE A VARIETY OF WAYS OF
HANDLING THE FINANCING, THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED SOME OF
THESE WITH THE FRG ALREADY, AND THAT THE EXPERTS COULD
HANDLE THIS ISSUE.

11. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, WHEN I EXPRESSED
PLEASURE AT LEBER'S RETURN HERE AS A SIGN OF HIS
IMPROVED HEALTH, FINGERHUT STRESSED THAT LEBER WAS
NOT YET IN GOOD HEALTH BUT WAS ONLY CONVALESCING. HE

SAID LEBER WOULD ONLY BE IN BONN BRIEFLY THIS WEEKEND,
THEN RETURN FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NEW CABINET
ON DECEMBER 13, AND WOULD NOT BE FULLY IN OFFICE AGAIN
UNTIL JANUARY.
STOESSEL

NOTE: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN20464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0155
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761272/aaaackie.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BONN 20175, 76 STATE 292828
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AWACS
TAGS: MPOL, GE, NATO, DPC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006